

**HOUSTON  
CITY  
COUNCIL  
DISTRICT  
G**



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# News From District G

February-March 2011

## To The Residents of District G:

### Operation Westside Success Ribbon Cutting & Press Release:



On February 24, Council Member Oliver Pennington gave a presentation at the Operation Westside Success Ribbon Cutting and Press Conference held at the Westside Tennis Center. There are now five (5) public safety video cameras up and running in the vicinity of Briar Forest @ Wilcrest. We are hopeful that this is just the beginning. There are already funds in hand and an application being completed for two additional cameras in the vicinity of Westheimer @ Kirkwood, and the goal is to saturate much our Council District with video cameras (an area approximately bounded by I-10 on the north, the Sam Houston Beltway 8 on the east, Richmond Avenue on the south, and Eldridge Parkway on the west).

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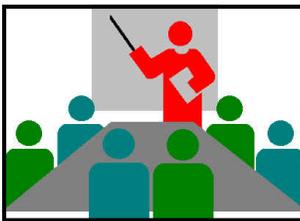
### In This Issue:

Operation Westside Success Ribbon Cutting .....	1	Water Rates to Increase April 1 .....	7
Out and About in District G .....	2	Bayou Preservation Association .....	8
ReBuild Houston Website Launched .....	2	HPD Senior Officer Jose Falcon .....	9
New Police Oversight Initiatives .....	3	Accessible Parking Abuse .....	9
District G CIP Meeting Held February 23 .....	3	BARC Needs Houston's Help .....	10
Redistricting: Process and Timeline .....	4	Government Procurement Connections .....	10
District G Overlay Projects .....	6	Save the Dates .....	11
Fiscal Responsibility Website Created .....	6	New Office of Neighborhood Services .....	11
Travel Tool Launched in West Houston .....	7		

## Out and About in District G



During the last couple of months, Council Member Pennington was extremely busy attending City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings held by the 9 City Council Committees on which he serves. In addition, Council Member Pennington and/or District G staff attended the following meetings/events outside the office:



- TIRZ 17
- Mid-West Super Neighborhood #20 Annual Meeting
- Greater Houston Partnership "State of the City"
- Lunar New Year Festival at the Chinese Community Center
- Neighborhood Protection Corp Public Hearing
- Meeting with Representative of the Firefighters Retirement Fund
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood #17
- Pre-CIP Meeting with Public Works, General Services and Parks
- Piney Point Civic Club Annual Meeting
- Pre-Construction Meeting on District Overlays (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act)
- Houston Realty Business Coalition Elected Officials Reception
- Trotter Family YMCA Dedication & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Committee Meeting
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Rodeo Round-Up
- Memorial Super Neighborhood #16
- Midwest Division Civic PIP Meeting
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Summit
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood #18
- District G Annual CIP Meeting
- Meeting with the Greenspoint Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ 11)
- Ribbon Cutting for Operation Westside Success
- Westchase Super Neighborhood #19
- Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly Meeting
- Disaster Relief Single Family Home Repair Program (Status of Round II Funding)
- HISD State of Schools
- Washington Corridor Business Association Meeting
- Tealwood Homeowners' Association Annual Meeting

## ReBuild Houston Website Launched

The City has launched a new website relating to ReBuild Houston and the new drainage and street fee: <http://rebuildhouston.org/>

Here you will find:

- the original September 29, 2010, plan for implementing Proposition I
- the December 22, 2010, ReBuild Houston Implementation Discussion Guide
- the January 26, 2011, Drainage Charge & Exemption Analysis
- the February 2, 2011, Presentation of the Proposed Draft Ordinance to City Council
- the CIP Public Meeting Presentation
- the Mayor's Proposed Ordinance that will govern ReBuild Houston

- a list of Proposed Rates
- a discussion of the Appeal Process being established
- a discussion of how to determine the number of square feet of Impervious Surface on your property
- a ReBuild Houston calendar of events
- Information on Capital Improvements
- Flooding and Drainage Resources
- Education Resources

The Draft Ordinance that will control all aspects of the new drainage fee is located here: <http://rebuildhouston.org/downloads/public-hearing-drain-ordinance-4.pdf>



## City Announces New Police Oversight Initiatives

On February 18, 2011, the City unveiled a sweeping package of new initiatives aimed at restoring public trust in the Houston Police Department in light of the Chad Holley case. The city is putting in place two new independent oversight panels, creating an ombudsman to provide confidential assistance to citizens alleging police misconduct, and retaining the services of an independent organization to conduct an investigation into the culture at the Houston Police Department.

The new Independent Police Oversight Board (IPOB) will replace the existing Citizens' Review Committee. The new panel will consist of 20 members appointed by the Mayor and will reflect the demographics and geographic diversity of the city. Its members will consist of experts in criminal justice, including retired judges and prosecutors, civil rights attorneys, and academic experts or scholars. The IPOB will have unfettered access to all records and police department data and the full cooperation of HPD. It will review all internal affairs investigations involving allegations of excessive force or the discharge of firearms and other major incidents. It will also have authority to review all disciplinary cases and make its own recommendations to the Chief of Police regarding discipline. A faculty member from the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Houston-Downtown will provide independent advice and counsel to the IPOB.

The IPOB will also review and make recommendations to the police chief and Mayor regarding the hiring of new police officers, training on proper treatment of citizens, evaluation of officer conduct, and community concerns relating to police misconduct. It will produce regular reports to inform the public of its findings.

In addition to the IPOB, the existing Police Advisory Committee will be re-named the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). The PSAC will hold monthly meetings in various locations throughout the city to obtain citizen input, meet quarterly with the police and fire chiefs and the local Office of Homeland Security to discuss issues affecting public safety, and periodically meet with City Council's Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee. Its members will be representative of all City Council districts as well as civil rights organizations and public policy organizations.

The City's Office of Inspector General and members of that office, all of whom are not employed by HPD, will serve as confidential ombudsmen to assist citizens in filing complaints of misconduct against police officers.

If you would like to be considered for a position on the IPOB, please submit your resume and a statement of desire to our office.



## District G CIP Meeting Held February 23

Council Member Pennington held his annual District G CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) meeting on February 23, which was attended by over 150 people, including many City of Houston Department heads and officials. The meeting included an overview of ReBuild Houston by Mayor Annise Parker and Andy Icken, the City's Chief Development Officer, and provided constituents with an opportunity to offer their comments and suggestions to the administration, and have their questions answered.

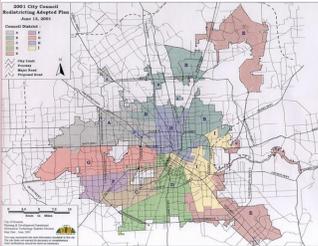
We heard from many citizens regarding their desires to have CIP projects constructed in their areas. The most common requests were for improvements to storm sewers and roads (Richmond Avenue, Dairy Ashford, Memorial Drive, Kirkwood, etc.) and for the placement of a recycling facility on the west side. District G has aging infrastructure and many of our major

thoroughfares are in need of reconstruction. We will strive during the CIP budgeting process to include as many of these worthy projects as possible.

Capital improvement plan ideas or requests should be submitted through the City's 3-1-1 Self Service Online Web Request ([https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web\\_intake/Controller](https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web_intake/Controller)). Under Service Type select "CIP Project Request". When the Service Type Matches page pops up, select "Request This Service", then complete the online form. Be sure to clearly and succinctly describe the project you are requesting in the *Additional Comments* field. CIP projects are large construction projects, not 3-1-1 or maintenance items (those may be submitted through 3-1-1 at any time). Please send a copy of your request to our office.



## Redistricting: Process and Timeline



### For Information on Redistricting, contact:

Margaret Wallace  
City of Houston  
Planning & Development  
Department  
611 Walker, 6th Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

Phone: 713-837-7826

[margaret.wallace@houstontx.gov](mailto:margaret.wallace@houstontx.gov)

The City of Houston Charter requires that City Council expand to eleven the number of single-member districts at such point that the City's population exceeds 2.1 million residents. On March 9, City Council passed an Ordinance declaring the population of City in excess of 2.1 million, finding that the single member council districts are materially imbalanced, and finding that the number of Council Districts should increase from 9 to 11 under the terms of the City's Charter. We will thus be adding Council District "J" and "K".

The City is interested in hearing from you and your neighborhood regarding your suggestions for the configuration of the new council districts. <http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/index.html>: This is the City of Houston's web page detailing information regarding the redistricting process. Please check back frequently, as it will be updated as new information becomes available.

There are several ways you may submit information relating to the redistricting process:

- (1) Through email, US postal service, or delivery service. All written comments should be directed to:

Margaret Wallace  
City of Houston Planning & Development Department  
611 Walker, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

Or emailed to:

[margaret.wallace@houstontx.gov](mailto:margaret.wallace@houstontx.gov)

- (2) Written or oral comments may be presented at any of the ten town hall meetings scheduled across the Houston community during the month of March. While each meeting location was chosen and is sponsored by the respective Council Member, the meetings will address redistricting on a city-wide basis. Individuals may attend and comment at any convenient meeting, regardless of its location. A calendar with locations and public transportation routes can be found here: <http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/index.html>
- (3) Written or oral comments may also be presented at any of the three public hearings that will be held in City Council Chambers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall, 901 Bagby Street, 77002. These are scheduled for:

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

### Submitting Plans:

City of Houston Resolution No. 2011-1, passed by City Council on January 12, 2011, sets forth the procedures, criteria and rules for the consideration and establishment of council member district boundaries. You can read the ordinance here: [http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/docs\\_pdfs/FullResolution\\_2011-1\\_en.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/docs_pdfs/FullResolution_2011-1_en.pdf)

Should you or your neighborhood wish to submit a redistricting plan for Council's consideration, it must conform to Section 4 of this Resolution:

- (a) Council Districts should be relatively equal in total population according to the 2010 federal census. In no event should the total deviation between the largest and the smallest Council District exceed ten per cent of the average district population.
- (b) Council Districts should be composed of whole county voting precincts.
- (c) Easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
- (d) Communities of interest should be maintained in a Council District, and attempts should be made to maintain neighborhoods.
- (e) Council Districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness and contiguity may involve a functional as well as a geographic dimension. The functional dimension may take on added weight in situations in which geographic compactness may not be possible in light of the fact that some areas are attached to the remainder of the City only by relatively long and narrow strips of land. Functional compactness and contiguity includes, but is not limited to, consideration of factors such as:
  - the availability of transportation and communication;
  - the existence of common social, economic and other shared interests; and
  - the ability of the citizens of a Council District to relate to each other and to their representative on City Council, and the ability of the Council Member to relate effectively to his or her constituency.

- (f) Preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of existing members of the Council and their history in representing certain areas.
- (g) The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid retrogression in the position of racial minorities and language minorities as defined in the Voting Rights Act with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.
- (h) The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting so as to create liability under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 United States Code § 1973.

In addition, all plans shall:

- (a) Be submitted in writing so that all proposals may be fully and accurately considered;
- (b) Be based on the 2010 federal census (P. L. 94-171) data;
- (c) Redistrict the entire City, i.e., contain proposed boundaries for all Council Districts within the City. If a plan does not redistrict the entire City, it may be impossible for the Council to assess the plan's impact on one or more protected minority groups. The requirement that any plan redistrict the entire City does not preclude citizens from proposing that particular voting precincts, neighborhoods, or locations be included in a specific council district; and
- (d) Conform to the Section 4 criteria set forth above. All redistricting plans prepared by residents for the City's consideration must be submitted no later than **4:15 p.m. on Friday, May 6, 2011**, to the attention of Margaret Wallace, Planning & Development Department, 611 Walker, 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002. No plan submitted after such time and date will be accepted or considered.

A computer kiosk will be set up on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor at 611 Walker for the use of members of the community wishing to develop and submit their own plan. It will be available by appointment for anyone to use. You may contact Margaret Wallace (713-837-7826 or [margaret.wallace@houstontx.gov](mailto:margaret.wallace@houstontx.gov)) to schedule a time.

#### Estimated Redistricting Timeline:

March 9, 2011: City Council passed an Ordinance declaring the population of City to be in excess of 2.1 million, finding that the single member council districts are materially imbalanced, and finding that the number of Council Districts should increase from 9 to 11 under the terms of the City's Charter.

March 2011: Redistricting Community Input/Town Hall meetings to be held in each Council District.

April 6, 2011: Deadline for the Planning & Development Department to prepare maps and a report on proposed Council District boundaries, and present to City Council a

proposed redistricting plan, including a report on the population for each proposed Council District for the general election to be held on November 8, 2011.

April 13, 2011: Public Hearing, 9:00 a.m.—City Council Chamber on the Second Floor of City Hall, 901 Bagby, Houston, TX 77002. At the public hearing, the Planning & Development Department shall present any revised maps or reports indicating changes from the previous plan presented to City Council. All persons desiring to be heard at any public hearing must reserve one, two or three minutes by contacting the City Secretary, Public Level, City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, Houston, TX 77002, or by calling 832-393-1100 at least 30 minutes in advance of the hearing.

April 20, 2011: Public Hearings (2 sessions) 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.—City Council Chamber on the Second Floor of City Hall, 901 Bagby, Houston, TX 77002. All persons desiring to be heard at any public hearing must reserve one, two or three minutes by contacting the City Secretary, Public Level, City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, Houston, TX 77002, or by calling 832-393-1100 at least 30 minutes in advance of the hearing. Please be sure to specify whether you are reserving time for the 9:00 a.m. public hearing or the 7:00 p.m. public hearing.

May 4, 2011: Redistricting Plan to be completed by the Planning & Development Department. Legal Department prepares ordinance adopting the Redistricting Plan.

May 5 - May 10, 2011: Planning & Development Department reviews Plan with Council Members.

May 11, 2011: Planning & Development Department presents final maps and the Department's final proposal to City Council for new City Council boundaries for the November 8, 2011, general election, including the population of each of the proposed Council Districts from which District Council Member are to be elected on that date.

May 18, 2011: City Council shall consider for final adoption an ordinance establishing Council District boundaries for the November 8, 2011, general election.

June 1, 2011: Target date to submit the redistricting plan to the Department of Justice for Preclearance (allows for a 60-day DOJ review prior to the deadline for setting the boundaries and completion of extended review, if necessary, prior to the election date).

August 3, 2011: Deadline for Redistricting Plan ordinance establishing boundaries of single member districts (more than 3 months before election day, as required by the Texas Election Code Sec. 276.006).

August 8, 2011: First date to file for a place on the November 8, 2011, general election ballot.

September 7, 2011: Last date to file for a place on the November 8, 2011, general election ballot.

November 8, 2011: Election Day.

## REMINDER: District G Overlay Projects



A reminder that several road project overlays have been approved by the Texas Department of Transportation using federal stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Each project consists of the construction of base, repair of flexible and rigid pavements, construction of approximately 3.5 inches of hot mix asphaltic concrete pavement, panel replacement, curb repair, striping and curb ramps.

There are 11 streets covered by this contract, 4 of which are at least partially in District G:

**Shepherd/Durham – from Memorial Drive to I-10.**

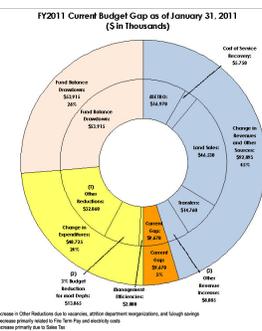
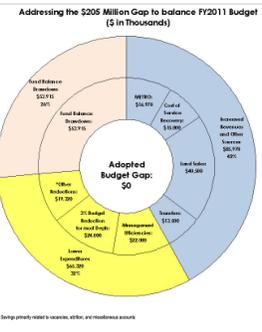
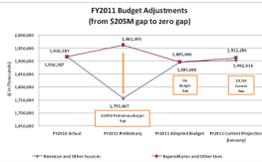
**Weslayan – from San Felipe to US 59.**

**Harwin – from Beltway 8 to US 59.**

**Washington Avenue – from Westcott to I-45.**

Although we do not currently know the order in which the 11 streets will be reconstructed, the overall project began February 28, 2011, and all work should be completed by February 28, 2012. The contract specifies that traffic flow shall not be obstructed from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. or from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., so rush hour traffic should not be affected. The contract also provides that local driveways to residential and commercial properties shall be accessible at all times.

Two weeks prior to beginning construction on any of the 11 streets, the contractor shall provide notification to all residents and business owners that will be affected by the work.



## Website Created to Track Fiscal Responsibility

Since January 4, 2010, the City has cut \$250 million in expenses, and has not raised taxes. The City recently created a website to track fiscal responsibility and help educate constituents about some of the cost-cutting measures that have been implemented: <http://www.houstontx.gov/fiscalresp/index.html>

Here you will find information about:

- The City of Houston Debt Collection Project
- Top Delinquencies (the top ten in each category who owe the City money for building code violations, traffic tickets, parking citations, non-payment of water & sewer bills, red light camera violations, library fines and fees, fire permits and false alarms, past due rent to the Convention Center, and airport terminal rentals and landing fees)

- Furlough Reports by Department
- Staffing Comparisons & Employee Counts
- Current Fiscal Year Operating Budget
- Capital Improvement Plan Web Application
- Five Year Outlook
- Financial Outlook and Budgetary Presentations Memo

You will also find information about economic development in the City, an overview of grant awards to the City, and information on departmental consolidations and reorganizations. Finally, you can also offer a suggestion if you know a way the city can save money.

## New Travel Tool Launched in West Houston

On March 3, the City announced a new traffic management tool for Houston drivers using state-of-the-art Bluetooth technology. This probe-based travel time approach allows drivers to see real-time travel flow via the Houston TranStar web site using Bluetooth readers, placed at key locations in west Houston. Commuters in the area will now be able to navigate around potentially congested roadways, saving time and money.

In the project's early research stage, using previous technology with toll tag readers as the identifiers the estimated cost was \$90,000 per location. The newer, Bluetooth-based devices, were deployed at a total cost of \$50,000 along with the utilization traffic signals in the service area. The City's total cost avoidance is approximately \$4.5 million.

The Bluetooth Readers identify an anonymous identification (ID) addresses associated with Bluetooth devices such as cell phones, headsets and automobiles. Those addresses are then matched between intersections and the travel time is calculated. The anonymous Bluetooth

ID number is deleted once a match has been made.

The 62-square-mile area is bounded by I-10 (Katy Freeway) on the north, I-610 (West Loop) on the east, the Westpark Tollway on the south and up to and including SH-6 on the west. Approximately 12.7 million vehicle miles are traveled daily through this corridor, covering four major employment centers: Uptown Houston, Westchase, Memorial City and the Energy Corridor.

Funded by the City of Houston, this Bluetooth-based AVAM (Anonymous Wireless Address Matching) sensor technology was researched and developed by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), a part of the Texas A&M University System. It is the first phase of a wider Intelligent Transportation Systems deployment that will include Pan-Tilt-Zoom Cameras and Dynamic Message Signs. The success of this project may lead to expanded coverage in other areas of the City. The map can be viewed at [http://traffic.houstontranstar.org/layers/layers.aspx?mapname=houston\\_west](http://traffic.houstontranstar.org/layers/layers.aspx?mapname=houston_west)



## Water Rates To Increase April 1

City of Houston Ordinance 2010-305 requires the Combined Utility System to implement an annual rate adjustment to be effective April 1 of each year.

The required water and wastewater rate adjustment under the ordinance for April 1, 2011, is 2.78%. This rate adjustment is based on the Regional Consumer Inflation (Houston, Galveston and Brazoria Urban Area CPI = 1.9%) plus population percentage change for Houston (U.S. Census Bureau's most recently published data reported population increase for Houston = 0.88%). This increase will apply to both single and multi-family water rates.

For single-family residential customers, rates are also scheduled to increase an

additional 6% under the ordinance (to ramp up rates over three years to equal the city's actual cost-of-service).

Thus, on April 1, 2011, multi-family rates will increase 2.78%, and single-family rates will increase 8.78%.

Under this ordinance, rates for single-family residential customers will also increase another 5.6% on April 1, 2012 (plus regional consumer inflation plus population percentage change), and another 5.3% on April 1, 2013 (plus regional consumer inflation plus population percentage change).

A reminder that Council Member Pennington voted **AGAINST** these increases in water rates.



**Single Family Residential Water Rates Will Increase 8.78% on April 1, 2011**

## District G Honors the Bayou Preservation Association



TRASH BASH® 2011

VOLUNTEER



*Clean it like you mean it!*

Saturday, March 26th

For More Information:

[www.bayoupreservation.org/](http://www.bayoupreservation.org/)



On March 8, 2011, Council Member Pennington honored the **Bayou Preservation Association** with a Mayoral Proclamation.

The Bayou Preservation Association's mission is to "protect and restore the richness and diversity of our waterways through activism, advocacy, collaboration and education." With more than 2,500 miles of waterways in "The Bayou City," protecting and transforming the bayous into beautiful "ribbons of green" makes good environmental sense.

Through activism and advocacy, BPA responds strongly to threats to our area's bayous and streams through grass roots organization and promotion of viable, economically responsible alternatives to destructive channelization (sides dug out and uniformly sloped) for the region's storm water management.

BPA collaborates with other environmental groups in coordinating the clean-up of area bayous, as well as planting trees along their banks, as well as working closely with the City of Houston and Harris County Flood Control in consulting about water quality and flood management issues.

The educational aspect of BPA is realized through dissemination of information on conservation of bayous and waterways at festivals, seminars, professional meetings; by speaking to schools and community groups and through its web site.

Major programs of BPA include:

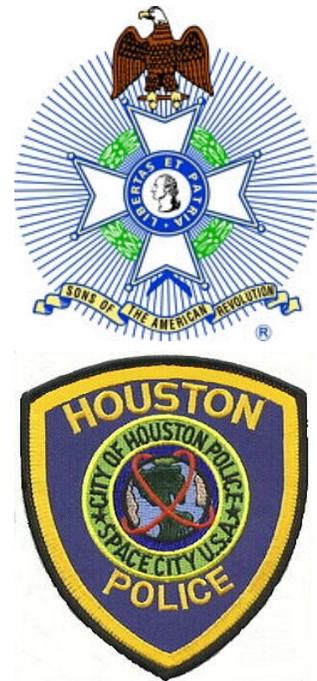
**"Eyes on the Bayou":** We identify threats to bayous, including removal of invasive, exotic plant species which are harmful to the native vegetation that keep the bayous healthy and mitigate flooding. With Harris County Flood Control, we work to remove major debris in the bayous, including carts from the "shopping cart graveyard" in Buffalo Bayou.

**Trash Bash®:** BPA coordinates Terry Hershey Park on Buffalo Bayou and Collins Park on Cypress Creek for this annual Houston/Galveston clean-up event involving hundreds of community volunteers (this year's event to be held Saturday, March 26).

**Annual Water Symposium:** This is the signature event of the Bayou Preservation Association and brings together interested stakeholders in government, business, academia and the non-profit sector to discuss a particular aspect of our most precious resource—water.

**Paddle Trails:** The Bayou Preservation Association and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department took the lead on the Buffalo Bayou paddle trail, which was named an official state paddling trail in 2009. The longest urban paddle trail in the state, it offers an amazing canoe or kayak experience to paddlers with its nine segments totaling 26 miles. BPA is working on Cypress Creek as the next major paddling trail in Houston.

District G Honors HPD Senior Officer Jose Falcon



In City Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 8, Council Member Oliver Pennington introduced George Brock, the President of the Paul Carrington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (“SAR”), who presented a special award for valor and bravery to **HPD Senior Officer Jose Falcon**. On hand were Captain David J. Williams, Divisional Commander of the Midwest Patrol Station, Sam Massy, President-Elect of SAR, Tom Wilson, Vice-President of SAR, and Mark W. Worthen, Treasurer of SAR.

“The brave and heroic actions of Senior Officer Jose Falcon remind all of us of the sacrifices made daily by our men and women in blue,” Council Member Pennington said. “I am grateful for police officers like Officer Falcon who are willing to place themselves in harm’s way to keep us all safe.”

Increased Penalties for Accessible Parking Abuse

On February 2, City Council approved an ordinance revising Section 26-10 of the Houston Code of Ordinances to reflect a revision to Texas Transportation Code Section 681.011(g) occurring during the last legislative session. As amended, the punishment for the unauthorized use of a parking space designated for the exclusive use of vehicles transporting persons with disabilities shall be not less than \$500.00 or more than \$750.00. Prior Houston ordinances limited the penalty to \$205.00.

Two other changes were also made affecting parking. The time period in which any parking citation must be paid or contested without incurring an additional fine has been shortened from 45 to 30 days. The other change is that a person charged with a parking, stopping, or standing offence may, within seven days of the issuance of the citation, contest the citation online in accordance with procedures to be established by the Director of the Municipal Courts Department.





## BARC Needs Houston's Help

BARC, the City of Houston's animal shelter, has only a few kennels left at its facility to house new animals. Over the last month or so, over a thousand animals have been turned into the shelter. BARC has placed about half of those animals in the same timeframe in either new permanent homes via adoptions or temporary foster care. They have only a few empty kennels, prior to being open to the public which often means lines of owners turning in great pets they simply cannot or will not care for any longer.

BARC needs Houston's help!

Fortunately, BARC has found a way to support foster caregivers by providing pet food and supplies. The BARC Foster Food Pantry was started in December 2010 after an in-kind donation of over \$10,000 worth of pet food and supplies was donated to BARC. BARC now supports their valuable fosters by providing free dog and cat food, and other supplies. The BARC Foster Food Pantry is funded solely by food donations. If businesses would like to donate pet food or supplies, please contact Carlene Lormand at BARC by calling 713-229-7301 or emailing [Carlene.Lormand@HoustonTX.gov](mailto:Carlene.Lormand@HoustonTX.gov)

Donations are currently received from Natural Pawz pet stores (7 locations) and one local Sam's Club. Volunteers from Yes! Prep Academy have worked tirelessly to unpack, sort, shelf and

create an inventory of all the donated items. Now fosters can come to BARC during business hours and collect needed items to help offset the personal expense that comes with fostering a sick or injured animal back to health. You can help BARC help their fosters! Donations of food and new or used supplies are essential. Monetary contributions may be given, and of course, volunteers are always needed.

### Items You Can Donate:

- Pet food and bowls
- Collars and leashes
- Crates and fencing
- Beds and linens
- Litter
- Flea Treatment

Interested individuals may view adoptable animals by following the PetFinder link on BARC's new website at [www.houstonbarc.com](http://www.houstonbarc.com) or on BARC's Facebook page. Houstonians who desire to support the shelter financially may make tax-deductible gifts in the form of cash, check, or money order. In accordance with recently passed City ordinance, all donations made to the shelter may only be used for BARC animals and BARC programs.

## Government Procurement Connections 2011



The premier intergovernmental contracting fair for small, minority, women, and disadvantaged businesses, Government Procurement Connections, will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Exhibit Hall B-3, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This year's theme is "It's Time to Move." You can pre-register online at [www.houstongpc.org](http://www.houstongpc.org). The Pre-registration deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>. On-site registration will also be available.

For additional information or questions, please call 713-837-9000.

This year's MWBE Awards Breakfast Keynote Speaker is Yolanda Garcia Olivarez, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, Region VI. She is responsible for delivery of the agency's programs in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

The Awards Breakfast will take place between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2011.

Save The Dates



**March 26, 2011—Trash Bash 2011:**

For the 2011 Trash Bash, Council Member Pennington is putting together a District G clean-up team. Come out Saturday, March 26, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and enjoy time with other residents working to keep District G the beautiful place we call home. The District G team will be working at the Terry Hershey Park (upper Buffalo Bayou) site sponsored by Bayou Preservation Association.

If you are interested in joining the team, please click on the City Council District G link at <http://www.houstontx.gov/volunteer/volunteernow.html> There are many clean-up sites throughout the city. If you are interested in working at another location, there is more information at [www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org). If you have any questions, please call Christina Manero at 832-393-3270.

**April 13, 2011—Public Hearing on Redistricting:**

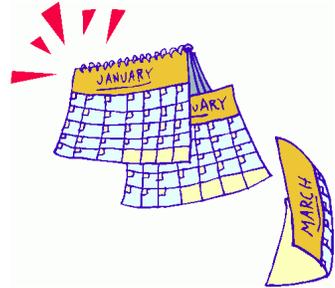
9:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 77002.

**April 20, 2011—Public Hearing on Redistricting:**

9:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 77002.

**April 20, 2011—Public Hearing on Redistricting:**

7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 77002.



**June 4, 2011—2011 “Ready or Not” Hurricane Workshop**

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall B. To register for this free workshop, or for additional information, visit: <http://hurricaneworkshop.com/default.asp>

Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services

In order to consolidate and align the various neighborhood services groups within the city, the Mayor has hired Catherine Flowers and created the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services.

Ms. Flowers will report through Andy Icken, The City’s Chief Development Officer.

Her oversight will include:

- Mayor's Citizen's Assistance Office
- Neighborhood Protection Corps, currently within HPD
- Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Neighborhood Protection Corps:

- 90% of the employees of NPC will move to the newly established Office of Neighborhood Services.
- The remaining 10% will move to Public Works & Engineering code enforcement.

This move was made to increase efficiency by restoring HPD resources to needed policing roles, remove duplicative inspection activities, allow for efficient coordination with the current Citizen Assistance Office, and to improve response times by both the Office of Neighborhood Services and Public Works.

Welcome aboard Ms. Flowers.



If you would like to receive periodic emails from Mayor Annise D. Parker and the City of Houston on topics of interest to you and your neighborhood, please go to <http://www.houstontx.gov> and register with CitizensNet



3-1-1

Cell phone or VoIP:  
713-837-0311

#### District G Staff:

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Council Member Pennington is excited to see the kick off of "Phase I" of Operation Westside Success, the pilot program to bring public safety video cameras to the west side of Houston. Houston has now joined a long and ever-growing list of cities that have turned to video cameras as a force multiplier for their police departments and security forces. This includes Chicago, Illinois; Queens, New York; Buffalo, New York; Denver, Colorado; and Lubbock, TX just to name a few. This is Houston's first-ever public/private crime deterrent program using video technology and Council Member Pennington is hopeful that the cameras will lead to a huge reduction in crime on Houston's west side. We are also hoping that this program will inspire the Mayor and her administration to consider funding the placement of cameras in areas of the city that want them and can benefit from them as another crime reduction tool available to HPD.

"Video Cameras do not blink", Council Member Pennington stated. "They do not call in sick. They do not suffer from memory loss. They hold no biases. They cannot be intimidated. They are always in the "right" place at the "right" time. The information they provide law enforcement is vital to both keep our police officers safe on the job and to aid in the investigation of criminal activity."

The Westside Success cameras are linked to Google maps, and the technology is such that any HPD officer with the appropriate credentials can monitor the cameras from anywhere there is internet service (including their patrol cruisers). They also have access to the PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) cameras so they can monitor a large area and get a close up of an area of interest. All five cameras are being archived to a web-based DVR, so a police officer called to a scene can go online and immediately view what just happened at that location.

Council Member Pennington wishes to offer a huge thanks to Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale and his wife Linda, who created the 501(c)(3), and to Iron Sky who donated all of these state-of-the-art cameras together with the associated Back Bone and Back Haul equipment and technologies in order to get us to this proof-of-concept milestone (approximately \$100,000). We also want to thank the Houston Police Department for all they have done in getting us to this point. From Executive Assistant Chief Kirk Munden, to Captain Lentschke at the Westside Command Station, to Richard McLarty, to Jack Hanagriff of the Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, we have received tremendous support and assistance from law enforcement personnel. We also want to thank the Honorable Jim Murphy, State Representative for the 133<sup>rd</sup> District (and General Manager of the Westchase District) and Mark Hubenak, the head of security for the Westchase District. Both were on hand at the ribbon cutting, and both have given vital assistance and cooperation to Operation Westside Success.

We also want to thank Mr. Greg Kubala, the owner of two westside Chick-Fil-A restaurants (located at 2606 S. Kirkwood Drive (@Westheimer) and 8609 Westheimer Road (@Fondren)). Greg is generously donating a portion of his stores' proceeds on Saturdays to Operation Westside Success, so if you want to support public safety on the Westside, it's as easy as ordering a chicken sandwich at Chick-Fil-A on a Saturday afternoon. We also want to thank the West Houston Medical Center, who we understand has also made a generous donation to Operation Westside Success.

As you can tell from the list of participants, this public-private partnership has truly been a team effort, and one Council Member Pennington is very proud to be a part of.

For more information, or to make a tax-deductible contribution to this 501(c)(3), visit: [www.westsidesuccess.org](http://www.westsidesuccess.org)

